

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02

AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-03 COME-00 EB-11 FPC-01

INT-08 OMB-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03

AGR-20 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /219 W

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R 051705Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9404

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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TAGS: PFOR, DA, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PREMIER VISIT TO DENMARK

REF: COPENHAGEN 2095

SUMMARY: DISCUSSION WITH MFA OFFICIAL TODAY RECONFIRMED OUTLINE OF SUBSTANCE CHIRAC VISIT REPORTED REFTTEL AND FILLED IN SOME INTERESTING DETAILS. IN GENERAL, FRENCH-DANISH TALKS WERE WARM AND FRANK. THE FRENCH AND THE DANES, HOWEVER, DID NOT SEE EYE TO EYE ON THE SIX OR SEVEN AREAS WHERE MOST OF THE DISCUSSION WAS FOCUSED. AS EXPECTED, THE DANISH POSITION WAS CONSISTENTLY CLOSER TO THAT REFLECTED BY UNITED STATES POLICY THAN WAS THE FRENCH. THE DANES, HOWEVER, DISCERNED A NEW FLEXIBILITY IN FRENCH ATTITUDES THAT WERE NOT PRESENT IN THAT COUNTRY'S PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. JORGEN BOJER OF MFA'S NORTH AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS SECTION, WHO ACTED AS DE FACTO CONTROL OFFICER FOR CHIRAC VISIT AND SAT IN ON ALL SECTIONS EXCEPT THE HARTLING-CHIRAC TETE-A-TETES, PROVIDED POLITICAL COUNSELOR TODAY WITH DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE VISIT AND FRENCH-DANISH DISCUSSIONS. BOJER REMARKED THAT TODAY'S SESSION WAS FIRST RUN-DOWN HE HAD MADE WITH ANY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND SAID THAT DANISH BRIEFING FOR THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE HELD WEDNESDAY. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT IT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT AWKWARD TO CONDUCT SUCH A BRIEFING WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRENCH EMBASSY PRESENT.

2. BOJER SAID THAT THE DANES AND FRENCH WERE ON THE SAME GENERAL WAVE-LENGTH AS TO ANY PRESENT MOVEMENT TOWARD CLOSER POLITICAL UNION. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT UNTIL THE COMMUNITY'S MOST SERIOUS TWIN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (INFLATION AND PAYMENTS DEFICITS) ARE DEALT WITH, NO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO FURTHER STEPS TOWARD A CLOSER POLITICAL UNITY. THE DANES AND FRENCH AGREED TO CONTINUE IN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE FRG TO RELAX ITS STRINGENT ANTI-INFLATIONARY POLICY "FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE." THE DANES REITERATED TO CHIRAC THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WISH THAT FRANCE REJOIN THE "EC SNAKE" WHICH CHIRAC SAID, HOWEVER, THE FRENCH HAD NO PRESENT INTENTION TO DO.

3. BY AND LARGE THE DANES WERE ENCOURAGED BY THE NEW FLEXIBILITY WHICH THEY BELIEVED THEY DISCERNED IN FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AS WELL AS TOWARD WASHINGTON. BOJER SAID THAT ALTHOUGH CHIRAC MAINTAINED THE POSITION ON ENERGY COOPERATION

SET OUT IN PARA THREE REFTEL, THE DANES BELIEVED THAT THE FRENCH ARE, IN FACT, PREPARED TO ACCEPT SUBSTANTIAL COOPERATION WITH THE US AND OTHER NON-COMMUNITY MEMBERS ON THIS QUESTION. BOJER SAID THAT THE FRENCH MAINTAIN THEIR RELUCTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ORGANIZATION WHICH THE ARABS COULD INTERPRET AS ONE OF CONFRONTATION.

4. IN HIS PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, CHIRAC IS SAID TO HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE CURRENT DANISH GOVERNMENT AS "PRO-FRENCH" WHILE ITS SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC PREDECESSOR WAS "PRO-BRITISH." BOJER SAID THAT HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT LED CHIRAC TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, IF ACCURATELY REPORTED, WHICH FROM THE FRENCH POINT OF VIEW COULD ONLY LEAD TO A REVERSAL IN THE DESIRED DANISH ATTITUDES. THERE IS NOT DOUBT, HE ADDED, THAT THE FRENCH FEEL MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE WITH GULDBERG AS FOMIN THAN THEY DID WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRAT K.B. ANDERSEN.

5. SOME SPECIFICS ON THE FOLLOWING MATTERS:

AGRICULTURAL POLICY. HERE THE DANES AND FRENCH AGREED TO DISAGREE, WITH THE DANES DISPLAYING UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONDITIONS THAT LED THE FRENCH TO SUPPORT ITS BEEF PRODUCERS BUT REMAINING UNCONVINCED AND CRITICAL OF THE JUSTICE OF THE FRENCH POSITION UNDER COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS. THE DANES ARE ALSO MOST CONCERNED THAT THE FRENCH PRACTICE WILL INCREASE PRESSURE FROM DANISH FARMERS TO DO LIKEWISE. BOJER SAID THAT CHIRAC ONLY UNDERTOOK TO END THE SUBSIDIES "AS SOON AS THE SITUATION PERMITS." CHIRAC ALSO USED THE AUGUST 2 PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE TO DISCLOSE THAT FRANCE INTENDS IN OCTOBER TO DEMAND A CONTINUATION OF THE EC THIRD COUNTRY IMPORT BAN BEYOND NOVEMBER 1, AND WILL ALSO BID FOR A REVISION OF EC MEAT PRICES AT THE COUNCIL MEETING. BOJER SAID THAT THE DANES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL OPPOSE SUCH MOVES. (THE DANISH PRESS REPORTED ONLY THAT CHIRAC CHARACTERIZED HARTLING'S RESPONSE AS ONE OF RESERVING THE DANISH POSITION.)

6. BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. BOJER EXHIBITED THE WELL-KNOWN DANISH PREOCCUPATION WITH THE EFFECT IN DENMARK OF BRITISH REFERENDUM ON MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY. ACCORDING TO WHAT CHIRAC SAID, THE FRENCH WILL BE LESS FLEXIBLE ON RENEGOTIATIONS THAN THE DANES WOULD LIKE TO BE AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE EXPECTED UK ELECTIONS THIS FALL. BOTH THE FRENCH AND THE DANES, HOWEVER, AGREED THAT THE BRITISH HAVE FOR MANY YEARS FAILED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY DIFFICULT DOMESTIC STEPS WHICH COULD PUT THEIR ECONOMIC HOUSE IN BETTER ORDER.

7. MIRAGE PURCHASE. CHIRAC ATTEMPTED TO ELICIT FROM HARTLING A GENERAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSORTIUM PURCHASE OF THE MIRAGE. THAT IS, CHIRAC APPARENTLY HAD IN MIND SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT THAT IF AN OVERALL BALANCING OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS WEIGHED IN THE FRENCH FAVOR, THE DANES WOULD COME DOWN ON THE FRENCH SIDE (WEEKEND PRESS REPORTS SAY THAT THE FRENCH ARE OFFERING 110 PER CENT OFF-SET TO THE DANES.) HARTLING REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY STATEMENT AT THE PRESENT TIME SINCE WHATEVER AIRCRAFT THE DANES MIGHT NEED IN THE 1980S WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON AN UNDERSTANDING WITH PARLIAMENT WHOSE PRESENT DEFENSE COMPROMISE EXTENDS ONLY TO 1977. (IN AN EDITORIAL BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE) CHARACTERIZED CHIRAC'S MIRAGE DEMARCHE AS "MORE THAT OF A TRAVELING SALESMAN THAN A STATESMAN.) CROWE

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